



Los Altos Hills QUARTERLY

INFORMATION BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS



*Welcome to the
Los Altos Hills Quarterly!*

A quarterly update from the Town
to keep you informed.



PLUS: New Committee Members • Town Budget Update • Sheriff's Update
Town Council Meetings and News • Upcoming Events



LOS ALTOS HILLS QUARTERLY

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to 2023 and a new Town publication we are calling **The Los Altos Hills Quarterly (Quarterly)**. The Quarterly will be a government focused newsletter intended to inform, educate and share the timely information about your Town

government, public safety, regulations and other pressing matters related to our Town’s governance. The publication “Our Town” will continue to be focused on history, people, flora, fauna and connecting the community.

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 2022

Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee

Jim Basiji
Terry Kearney
Sam Wood
Benjamin Gikis
Amita Sachdeva

Environmental Design & Protection Committee

Grace Tsang

Environmental Initiatives Committee

Mike Salameh

History Committee

Bernardo Ferrari

LA/LAH Senior Commission

Sharvari Dixit

Open Space Committee

Viggy Mokkarala
Anita Baldwin

Parks and Recreation Committee

Jennifer Lauren Kan Bardsley
Sara Farr

Pathways Committee

Rajesh Shakkarwar

Technology Committee

Rajiv Bhateja
Bill Coughran, Jr.
Ameesh Divatia
Annie Ju
George Lee

Lifetime Volunteer Award Winners

Jitze Couperus
Nancy Couperus

Carol Gottlieb
Duffy Price

Thank you to all our hardworking
and dedicated volunteers.



NEW TOWN EMPLOYEES

The Town hired six new staff in 2022.

From left to right: Astha Khanal (Assistant Engineer), Michael Nakamura (Accounting Technician), Emina Steta (Administrative Clerk/Technician), Melissa Elian-Carrillo (Assistant Engineer), WooJae Kim (Public Works Director), Elaine Ling (Senior Planner). Not pictured: Albert Sotelo (Maintenance Worker).

Though recruiting has been difficult, at the end of 2022, we can proudly say we have only one vacancy to fill in our Building Department.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND NEWS



OVERVIEW OF PAST QUARTER COUNCIL MEETINGS

Did you know the Town provides a recap of all City Council meeting actions the day after a Council meeting? To review, please visit the City Council Meeting Recaps page on the Town's website. These recaps are also provided on the City Manager's Weekly Report: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/541/City-Council-Meeting-Recaps.



CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING

Every January, the City Council holds a priority setting session to discuss the work plan for the year ahead. In collaboration with the commission, committees and staff, the Council prioritizes what they believe the Town's priorities should be beyond the day-to-day operations that Town staff commits to delivering every day. The staff works closely with the committees and planning commission to construct a draft work plan that is presented and eventually adopted by City Council. That plan helps shape the FY 2023-24 Budget that is approved in May 2023. The City Manager provides updates in the middle and end of the year, and the process repeats in January of the following year.

Last year, the City Council focused their work plan in four priority areas:

1. Maintaining quality of life and community character
2. Promoting public safety
3. Increasing effective service delivery and governance
4. Protecting and maintaining the Town's infrastructure

Within these four priority areas, there were 56 milestones for 2022. Each milestone represents a significant work product that takes a concerted effort of the City Council, staff and commission and committees, and sometimes budget. In addition to the 56 items in the 2022 workplan over the course of the year, 32 additional priorities, for a total of 88 milestones were assigned to staff. With Council's support and staff's hard work, over 76% of these 88 milestones were complete, which means 21 milestones rolled over into the 2023 work plan.

Work for the 2023 Priority Setting Session began in September 2022. Staff began talking internally about the projects that need to be completed in the upcoming year, attending standing committee meetings to collect goals for each committee and working with the Council to understand their individual interests as well. On January 11, 2023, the Town committees presented their goals to Council for the upcoming year, and then will meet with City Council to prioritize the work plan for the year on January 25, 2023. Scan the QR code to review the 2023 work plan and be sure to attend the January 25 Goal Setting Session: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5187/Council-Priorities-2022.





HOUSING ELEMENT



In January 2022, the Town embarked on updating its Housing Element, a planning framework that is required by State law. Since 1969, California has mandated that all local governments adequately plan to meet the housing needs of everyone in the community through the adoption of a Housing Element every eight years.

Local governments like our Town create the rules that shape where housing can be built, what types and how much. All of this information lives in the Housing Element document. The core of a Housing Element is the goals, policies and programs that address the housing needs of all types of households and income levels, both existing and projected ones.

Before a Housing Element is updated, the State provides a target for how many homes to plan for in every local jurisdiction, known as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Los Altos Hills' housing allocation is 489 housing units in various income categories, plus a 15% buffer.

After numerous public hearings, as of December 2022, the Town identified three sites for multi-family units to accommodate its allocation, including part of Foothills College, part of St. Nicholas School and the Twin Oaks subdivision (Arastradero Road), and submitted its first Draft Housing Element to the State for review on October 27, 2022. The State has 90 days to provide comments. The Town is targeting to adopt the Housing Element for 2023-2031 by January 31, 2023.

Please visit the Housing Element page on the Town's website to learn more and get involved in the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update process.



LosAltosHills.CA.gov/537/Housing-Element-Update-2023-31

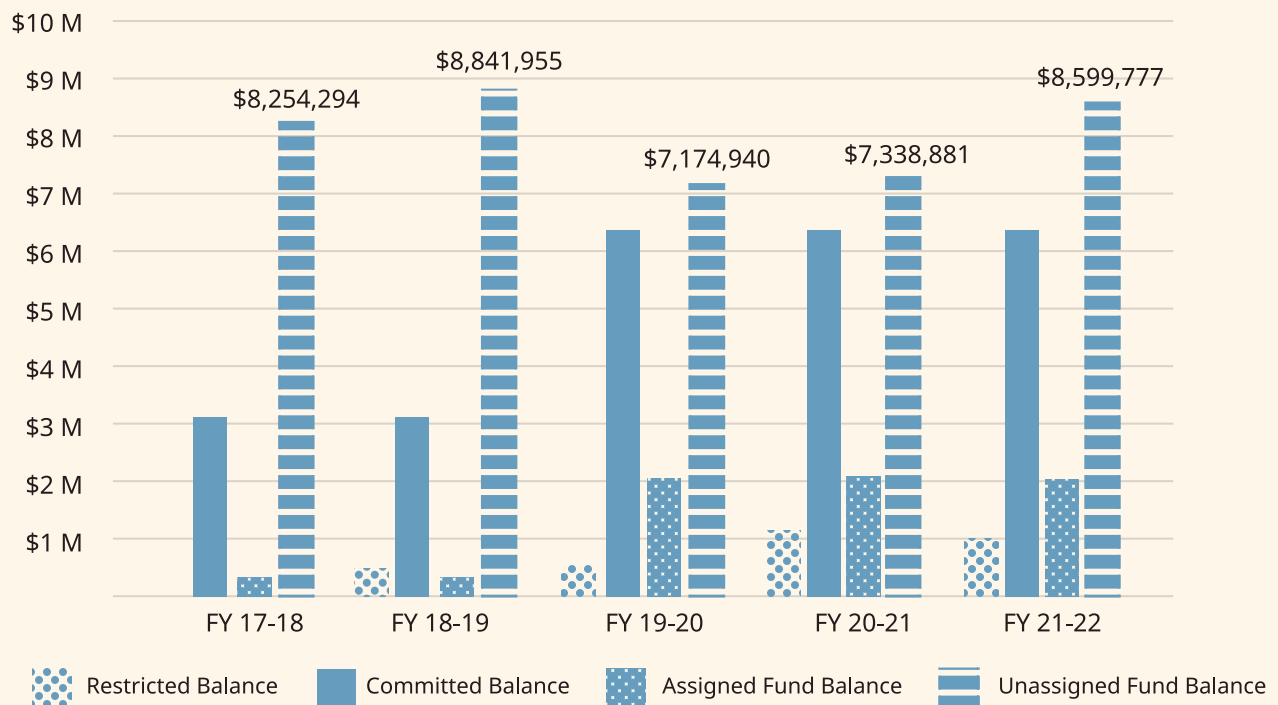
TOWN BUDGET UPDATE

TOWN RESERVES

As of June 30, 2022, the Town's governmental unassigned fund balance is approximately \$8.6 million, which is available for spending at the government's discretion. The remainder of the fund balance is restricted, committed or assigned to indicate that these amounts may only be spent on the purposes designated. Committed and assigned fund balances primarily consist

of reserves for specific future uses. These reserves are approved each year by the City Council during the annual budget process. Other funds that are committed primarily consist of capital project funds. Capital projects are approved by the City Council during the annual budget process for the upcoming fiscal year.

General Fund Reserves



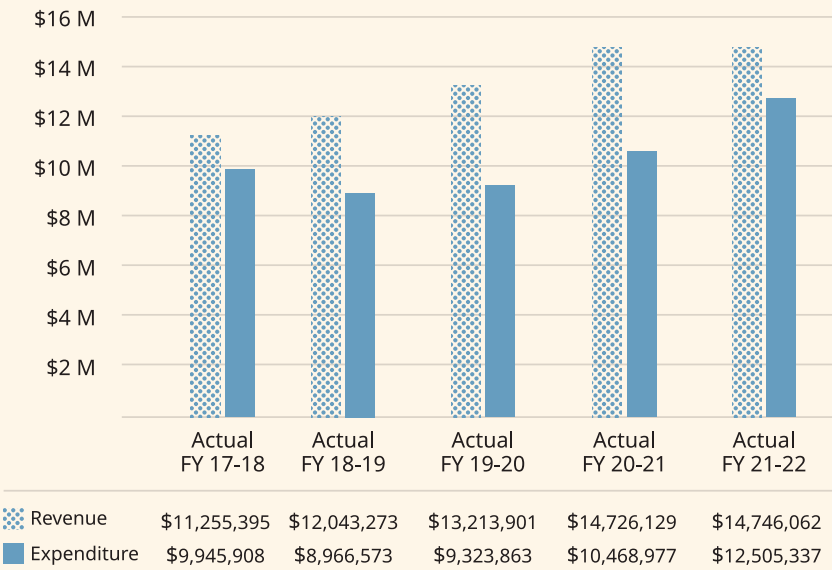
GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The average change in the General Fund balance over the past seven years is about \$1.6 million. Over the years,

the Town has been very fiscally conservative and we see consistent growth in the revenues due to the increase

of the property tax revenue. Based on the most recent Property Tax Analysis performed by HdL, the local real estate market continues to improve.

General Fund Summary



While home sales volumes remain flat, many cities saw median price increases due to low interest rates, high demand and limited properties for sale. The median sale price of Los Altos Hills detached single-family homes in Q2 2022 is \$6,215,500. In Q3 2022, the median price dropped 31% to \$4,270,500 due to an increase in interest rates and a decrease of homes on the market.



REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

The Town management develops a five-year financial projection for all town funds, covering all foreseeable elements of revenues and expenditures. This practice allows the Town to identify potential fiscal challenges early on and gives it time to plan strategically to weather economic cycles and provide stable and consistent services to its residents. By the Town being fiscally conservative, the Town is able to increase the reserve fund balance year over year.

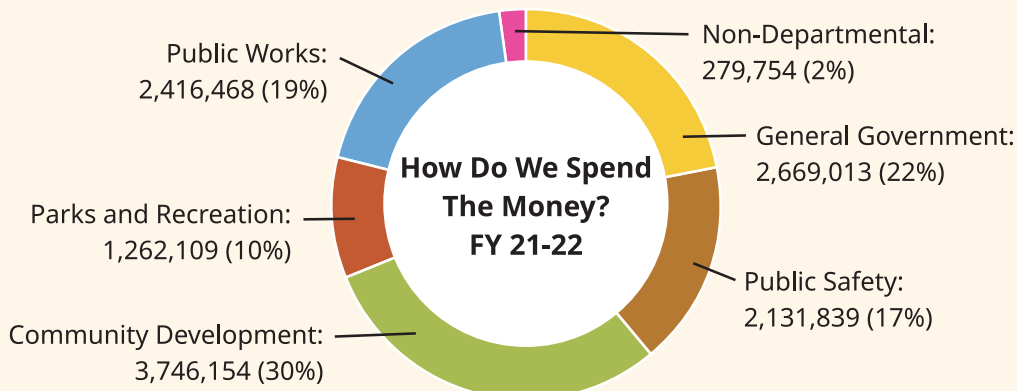
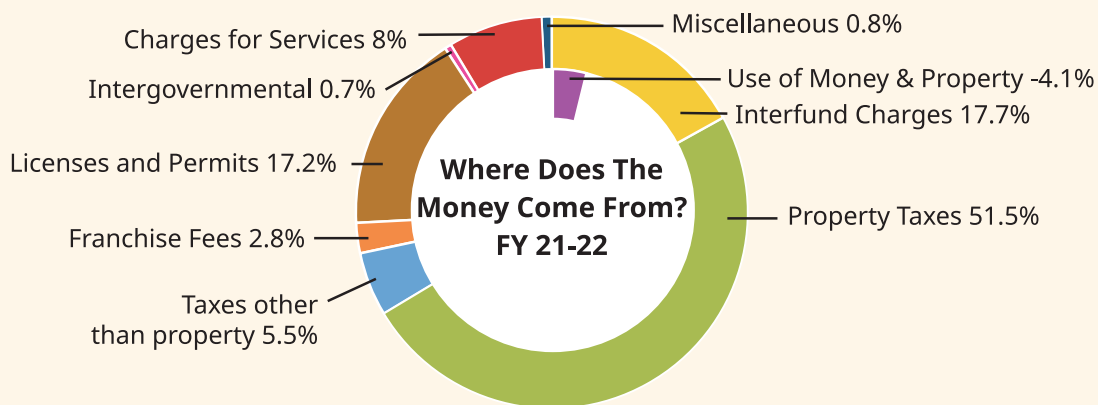
Where Does the Money Come from: Property tax and site development revenues are the main sources of income for the Town, representing 69% of total governmental fund revenues.

The chart below shows the largest source of the Town's revenue is Property Tax at nearly 52%, followed by 17% for Licenses and Permits.

How do we Spend the Money: The General Fund's expenditures are allocated according to the City Council Strategic Priorities. The tax dollars are primarily allocated to maintain service levels and fall into the following categories: Quality of Life and Community Character, Promote Public Safety, Increase Effective Service Delivery and



Governance and Protect and Maintain Infrastructure. The details of the budget and the financial documents can be found at [LosAltosHills.CA.gov/267/Documents-and-Reports](https://www.losaltos hills.ca.gov/267/Documents-and-Reports).



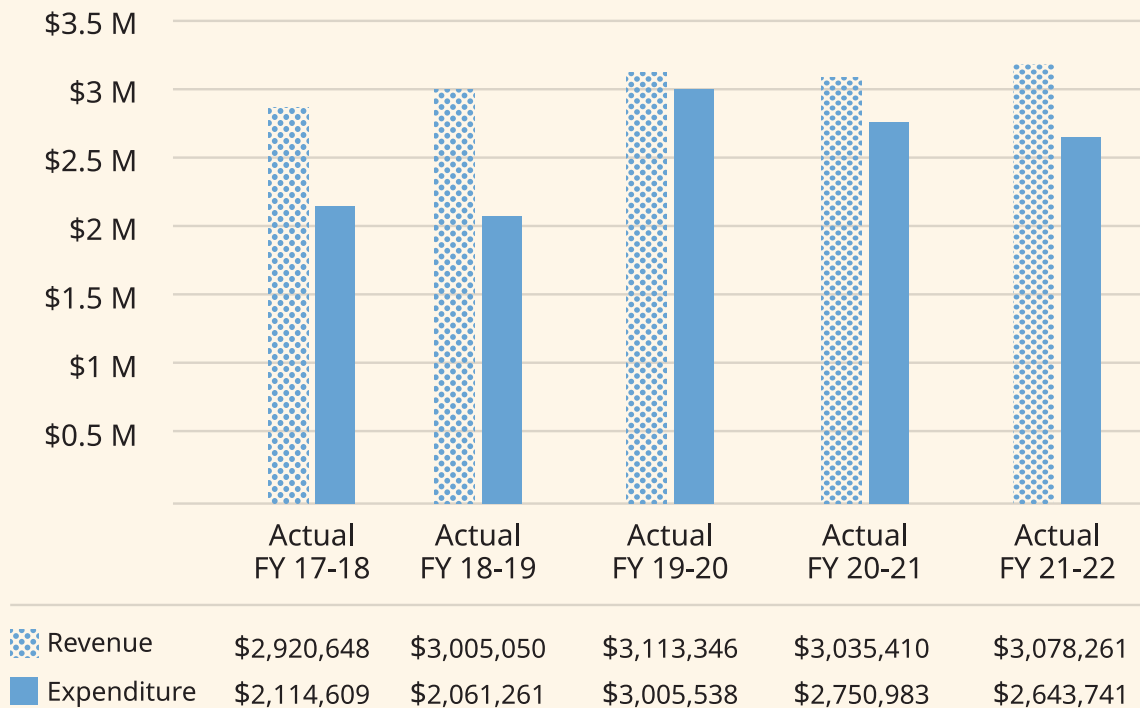


SEWER FUND SUMMARY

The Town's Sewer Fund provides sanitary sewer services to roughly 60% of the parcels within the jurisdiction.

Service fees are collected annually on the property tax roll. There was no sewer rate adjustment in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22. In May 2022, City Council approved a 6% adjustment rate per year for a five-year period from FY 2022-23 through FY 2026-27. The increase in revenues will help fund our share of the Regional Water Quality Control Plant in Palo Alto, our proportional share of the Palo Alto and Los Altos conveyance system and to perform routine preventive measures on the Town's aging sewer infrastructure. As of June 30, 2022, the Sewer Fund has a net position of \$494,176.

Sewer Fund Summary



SHERIFF'S UPDATE



As of December 13, 2022, residential burglaries hit a 10-year high with 47 residential burglaries reported. Three cases are outliers with the same residence being burglarized by a known suspect who has since been arrested.

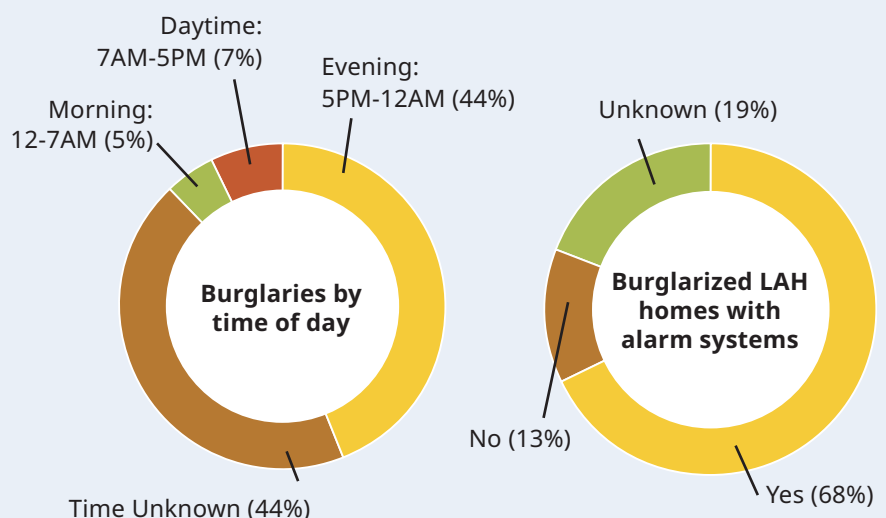
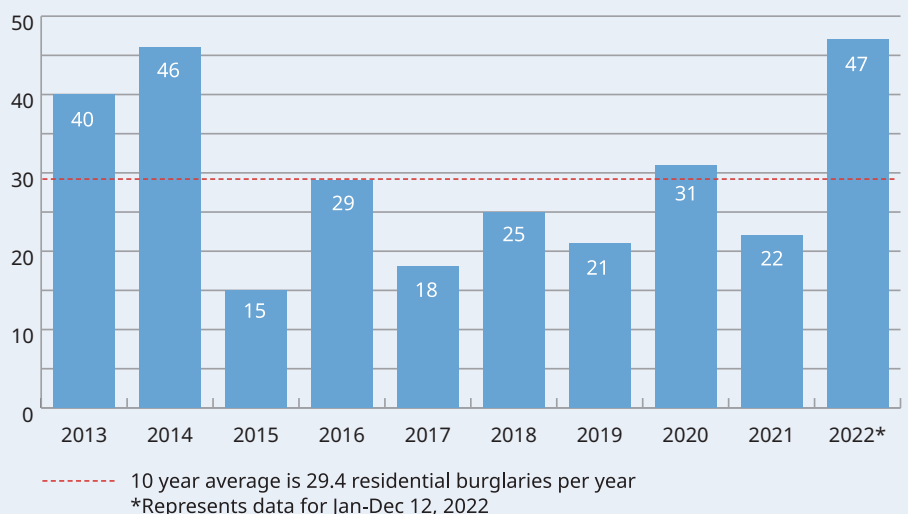
In reviewing data, we learned most burglaries occurred either during the evening hours or over the course of multiple days, as many residents reported being out of town or away on vacation. Of the houses burglarized, 68% reported having home alarm systems installed. Some systems are live monitored by an alarm company, some are audible only, and while most victims reported activating their alarms, a handful did not.

In an overwhelming majority of cases reported, burglars made entry by breaking a rear glass door, typically one leading directly to the master bedroom of the home, and quickly searching and stealing property. As a reminder, a live monitored system, sensitive to all doors and windows with reporting directly to the Sheriff's emergency dispatch line, is a preferred method for an alarm system, as it gives the Sheriff's Office the immediate notification required for an expedited response. Please consider purchasing an alarm for your home and remember to activate your alarm system if you already have one.

Though burglaries can still occur with an alarm system, burglars are less likely to stay in a home for a long period of time once an alarm is triggered. On several occasions, the alarm system was triggered, causing burglars to flee prior to entering the home.

For more information on crime prevention, please contact the Sheriff's Office at (408) 868-6600 and ask to speak with a crime prevention deputy. To form a Neighborhood Watch Group contact CEinfalt@LosAltosHills.CA.gov.

Reported Burglaries 2013-2022



2024 LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE



On November 17, 2022, the City Council adopted a new leaf blower ordinance that restricts times of use and limits the noise from leaf blowers, effective January 1, 2024. The new regulations limit the hours of operation of all leaf blowers (both gas-powered and battery/electric-powered) from 8 AM-5:30 PM Monday through Saturday. The use or operation of leaf blowers will not be permitted at any time on Sundays and observed holidays as identified in Chapter 9, Section 5-9.01 of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code.

The ordinance also limits the noise level of all leaf blowers to not exceed 65 decibels (dB) at a distance of 50 feet as specified by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for leaf blowers. This is equivalent to the sound of a washing machine. Residents are also required to carry the manufacturer's sticker on their leaf blower certifying 65 dB compliance, or a certification by the Public Works Director or designee. The manufacturer's label will indicate the model's dB at 50 feet from the sources. Additionally, The Town Ordinance prohibits modifications to the muffler or the manufacturer's noise suppression system after certification of the leaf blower.

Plain and Simple

If you're in the market to buy a new leaf blower, go green, go clean and go electric. The State of California passed AB 1346 in 2021, authored by Assembly member Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park), phasing out Small Off-Road Engines (SORE) such as gas leaf blowers by 2024. That means that by January 2024, electric leaf blowers will be the only option available in stores.

Don't worry, you have 2023 to make the switch and to tell your landscapers, contractors and neighbors about our new time of use and noise limit. Although gas options will continue to be permitted, by 2024 the Town recommends going electric so you have more options.

By January 2024, the Town will convert all gas leaf blowers to electric and will begin converting expired lawn equipment as well. It will be an adjustment, but the reduction in noise and greenhouse gasses is worth it. Let's work together to make Los Altos Hills quieter, greener and cleaner.



TRAIL UPGRADES

Though the Town's Public Works team tackled many tasks in 2022, the pathway system expansion and upgrade was the most notable. Approximately one mile of paths were upgraded and sections were added in the following areas: Altamont Plunge, Barley Hill Road to Clausen Court, La Paloma Road to Robleda Road and the Natoma Oaks Subdivision to South Fork Lane. Paths located at Bryne Preserve Plunge, Edgerton Road to Ursula Lane and Matadero Creek were also upgraded and improved. The newly upgraded paths were designed and constructed by the Town's Public Works team. Additionally, the Natoma Oaks subdivider constructed a roadside path along the northside of Natoma Oaks Lane and an off-road path connecting Natoma Oaks Lane to the off-road path along Materdero Creek, behind Edgerton Road.

In addition to this completed work, Public Works staff is designing and planning construction to complete more paths. Future plans include expanding roadside paths on Briones Way, Concepcion Road, La Paloma Road, Page Mill Road crossing at Foothills Park (City of Palo Alto), Summerhill Road and the one off-road path connecting Fremont Road with Redwood Grove (City of Los Altos).

SEWER UPDATE



On May 25, 2022, the Town of Los Altos Hills City Council approved a resolution to increase sewer charges in the Palo Alto and Los Altos sewer basins for the next five years, beginning in FY 22-23. The sewer fee increase is used to fund our share of infrastructure downstream, as well as to repair sections of our sewer conveyance system that need the most attention. The plan is to continue to invest in this asset for next four years to improve the sewer system and reduce the potential for spills and backups.

This year, the Town performed lift station upgrades, root foaming of the existing sewer system and analysis for the Adobe Creek Sewer System maintenance.

The Town owns two lift stations, one on Purissima Road and the other on O'Keefe Lane. The Purissima Road lift station consists of four 23 horsepower (hp) sewage pumps, with two pumps in a dry well and the other two in a wet well. Both sewage pumps in the wet well were upgraded in 2022. The Town also added one spare pump so each well has a backup. At the O'Keefe Lane lift station, the lift station consists of two 3 hp sewage pumps. This lift station was upgraded in 2022 by replacing both aging sewage pumps with new ones.

To provide maintenance and prevent overflows, the Town performed root foaming on 47,300 linear feet (LF) of public sanitary sewer mains to kill and stunt the growth protruding roots in sewer mains.

The Adobe Lane Sewer system has a capacity bottleneck, delineated in the 2018 Wastewater Collection System Master Plan prepared by Woodard & Curran. In 2021, Freyer & Laureta, Inc. (F&L) prepared an engineering analysis to address pipe defects and proposed improvements to the Adobe Creek Sewer System, including addressing capacity issues on Adobe Lane. Based on the F&L analysis, staff intends to advise council on how to correct this section of the sewer system in early 2023.

Staff intends to continue to rehabilitate the system with the next phase of pipe improvement projects in the first half of 2023. Our goal, as always, is to reduce deficiencies and maintain the conveyance system for generations to come. In partnership with West Bay Sanitary District, we hope to keep our system reliable, clear, operational and free of deficiencies.



Volunteers celebrate with us annually at the Volunteer Dinner. This photo features our 2022 volunteer dinner at Hidden Villa.

JOIN A LOS ALTOS HILLS COMMITTEE

Los Altos Hills encourages and welcomes residents to become involved in the local community and contribute to the success of the Town. Being a member of a Town committee is a great opportunity to connect your passion with public service and use your unique skills to benefit the community.

Terms on the committees are normally four years. Information on the committees, including membership eligibility, meeting times and locations, scope of authority, current members and the application form is available on the Standing Committees page on the Town’s website, or by scanning the QR code. The following committees currently have openings:

- **Emergency Preparedness & Response (3)**
- **Environmental Design & Protection (2)**
- **Environmental Initiatives (3)**
- **Finance & Investment (1)**
- **History (4)**

- **Joint Volunteer Awards (1)**
- **Open Space (1)**
- **Parks & Recreation (2)**
- **Public Art (4)**
- **Pathways (1)**



For more information, please contact Deborah Padovan, City Clerk (650) 941-7222 or email DPadovan@LosAltosHills.CA.gov. The appointments are scheduled for the February 16, 2023 City Council meeting. To be considered, please submit your application by Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 5 PM: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/153/Standing-Committees.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Phone Numbers

- To report an emergency: 911
- To report an emergency happening in town when you're away: 408-299-3233
- To report a non-emergency to the County Sheriff: 408-299-2311
- For downed trees and sewer overflows/backup, call Town Hall at 650-941-7222 (during office hours). **AFTER** office hours, please contact Santa Clara County Communications at 408-299-3233 or Citizen Portal (bit.ly/3Zy0ksP)

Staff members at Town Hall hold many responsibilities. Alongside fulfilling the day-to-day operations of Town governance, the employees of the Town are also sworn Disaster Service Workers who have taken an oath to serve and protect the residents of the Town in the event of an emergency. Whether it be an earthquake, wildfire or a flood, the public servants of the Town have made a commitment to report to the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to help manage an emergency event.

At the beginning of the year, the Town Council set a priority for the Town to spend staff time advancing the Town's emergency preparedness efforts. They first formed the "Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee" to help Town staff focus on this critical goal. In addition, this included putting an emphasis on training all staff members in their required FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) courses and conducting an emergency table-top drill.

Town staff have spent time throughout the year to meet these Council goals.

During this time, the Town onboarded a new Emergency Management Consultant, Ann Hepenstal, and held multiple training sessions on the roles and responsibilities that are separated into the five sections of an EOC: Management, Logistics, Operations, Planning and Finance.

On October 24, 2022, Town Hall staff reported to the Council Chambers to participate in the emergency drill, and were faced with an imaginary scenario that a wildfire had broken out in Los Altos Hills and was quickly spreading. Staff worked through the event conducting emergency communications, reviewing evacuation routes and worked with outside agencies to coordinate a unified response.

The October drill was the first of many ongoing drills that the Town will conduct to reaffirm staff's commitment of responding efficiently during an emergency. A larger tabletop drill involving more stakeholders in Los Altos Hills such as schools, monasteries and other emergency response organizations will be held in February 2023.



Upcoming Events

Los Altos Hills

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Sunday, February 12, 7-8PM

Location: Town Hall Council Chambers, Fee: \$20

Telegraph Quartet, an internationally recognized ensemble, brings a uniquely intimate and immersive concert experience to Los Altos Hills. This is an exciting concert experience you won't want to miss, supporting your family and friends. Refreshments will follow the concert! Learn more and register at the Town's website.



DRIVE-THRU SHRED EVENT

**Saturday, March 18, 8-11 AM
(or when truck is full)**

Location: Town Hall Parking Lot

The Drive-Thru Shred Event is available to help residents destroy confidential documents in a safe, convenient and environmentally responsible way. The event is free for Los Altos Hills residents with proof of residency.

LOS ALTOS HILLS CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, March 25, 9AM-3PM

Location: Foothill College Parking Lot 6

Neighborhood Clean-up Day conveniently allows Los Altos Hills residents to dispose of bulky items. For more information visit GreenWaste.com/LosAltosHills or contact GreenWaste's Customer Service line at 650-947-4994.

20TH ANNUAL HOPPIN' HOUNDS BISCUIT HUNT

Saturday, April 8, 9-10:30AM

**Fee: \$10 per entry
Proceeds benefit Pets in Need's Palo Alto Animal Shelter**

Location: Byrne Preserve

It's the 20th annual Doggie Biscuit Hunt in Los Altos Hills! You and your dog will hunt through Byrne Preserve in search of dog-friendly biscuits. Before the biscuit hunt, catch up with all your canine companions while enjoying a coffee bar with donut holes. Tails will wag for this exciting on-leash event held to benefit the Palo Alto Animal Shelter operated by Pets in Need. Registration is required in advance at: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/register.



11TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 2, 10AM-12PM

Location: Town Hall Council Chambers

The Los Altos Hills Youth Commission Leadership Conference invites you to come learn about leadership! The conference is geared towards middle school and high school age students, however all are welcome. For more information and to save your spot, register at the link below.

RSVP Required: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/LeadershipConference



21ST ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS PATHWAYS RUN/WALK

Saturday, May 13

5K/10K: 9 AM, \$45 (\$50 on race day)

1-Mile Fun Run: 10:30 AM, \$30 (\$35 on race day)

Location: Westwind Community Barn

This annual event begins at the Westwind Community Barn, travels through the Byrne Preserve and extends into the Los Altos Hills Pathways system. The run features a hilly and challenging 5K and 10K Pathways Run/Walk and a 1-Mile Fun Run. To register, volunteer or for more race information, contact Sarah Robustelli 650-947-2518, SRobustelli@LosAltosHills.CA.gov or visit the event website at LAHPathwaysRun.org.





The Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

LOS ALTOS HILLS LINKS

OFFICIAL SITE: LosAltosHills.ca.gov

City Council Agenda/Meeting Packets and Minutes

http://losaltoshills.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Standing Committees and Volunteer Opportunities

https://library.qcode.us/lib/los_altos_hills_ca/pub/municipal_code

Online Municipal Code

https://library.qcode.us/lib/los_altos_hills_ca/pub/municipal_code

City Council Roster

<https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/169/City-Council>



Want to stay up-to-date on all Town happenings? The City Manager publishes a weekly report that provides a quick list with hyperlinks to Town meetings. Stay connected on the latest regional and local updates in a short weekly email delivered right to your inbox every Friday.

The City Manager Weekly Report includes a recap of every regular city council meeting and a list of previous and future Town meetings. The report also includes updates on the latest

Planning applications, the current state of the housing element, progress on our newest trail segments, progress reports on capital improvement projects, a snapshot of our budget, staffing vacancies, upcoming recreation activities and events, a weekly Sheriff's report and more. Don't miss out. Stay connected. Scan the QR code or go to our website to sign up: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/list.aspx.



The Los Altos Hills Quarterly provides Town information and is published by staff four times annually. Issues are posted online at LosAltosHills.CA.gov/LAHQuarterly. For questions about this publication, contact LAHQuarterly@LosAltosHills.CA.gov.



For the Our Town newsletter, visit: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/278/Newsletters.

Need to report an issue or have a Town-related question?

Visit: LosAltosHills.CA.gov or call 650-941-7222.

Peter Pirnejad, City Manager 650-941-7222 | PPirnejad@LosAltosHills.CA.gov

Deborah Padovan, City Clerk | DPadovan@LosAltosHills.CA.gov



The Los Altos Hills Quarterly is printed on post-consumer waste recycled paper (min. 30%) and is recyclable. For more information about sustainability in Los Altos Hills, visit: LosAltosHills.CA.gov/224/Sustainability.